

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

The following paragraphs <sup>00369</sup> [00367] and <sup>00421</sup> [0419] will replace all prior versions of paragraphs [00369] and <sup>00421</sup> [0419] with regard to the published application:

<sup>0369</sup> [0367] Nuclear factor kappa B (NF- $\kappa$ B) is a dimeric protein complex occurring in many tissue cells and in particular in blood cells. NF- $\kappa$ B takes on a particular role in the control of the expression of genes which have an NF- $\kappa$ B binding sequence (5'-GGGPuNNPyPyCC-3') (SEQ ID NO. 3) in their promoter sequence. To this extent, NF- $\kappa$ B is a transcription factor. The physiological activity of NF- $\kappa$ B in the control of gene expression, however, is subject to a regulation principle, in which NF- $\kappa$ B is released from a complex with proteins of the I $\kappa$ B class in order to be translocated as a transcription factor to the cell nucleus resulting in gene activation. The regulation principle for the release of active NF- $\kappa$ B from a complex with the protein I $\kappa$ B is still not known in detail.

<sup>0421</sup> [0419] The NF- $\kappa$ B decoy that can be used in the present invention may be any compound that specifically antagonizes the NF- $\kappa$ B binding site of the chromosomes and includes but is not limited to nucleic acids and their analogs. As preferred examples of the NF- $\kappa$ B decoy, the present invention may utilize NF- $\kappa$ B decoy comprising one or more copies of oligonucleotides CCTTGAAGGGATTTCCTCC (SEQ ID NO. 4) and GGAAGTTCCTAAAGGGAGG (SEQ ID NO. 5), preferably, the NF- $\kappa$ B decoy are described as oligonucleotides containing the nucleotide sequence of GGGATTTCCTCC (SEQ ID NO. 6). Preferably, the NF- $\kappa$ B decoy oligonucleotide is a double-stranded 22 bp oligonucleotide (5'-AGTTGAGGGGACTTTCCTCCAGGC-3') (SEQ ID NO. 7) (Promega).